



U.S. Department of Energy  
**Office of River Protection**

0054838

P.O. Box 450  
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MAR 26 2001

01-OPD-028

Mr. Michael A. Wilson, Program Manager  
Nuclear Waste Program  
State of Washington  
Department of Ecology  
P.O. Box 47600  
Olympia, Washington 98504

**RECEIVED**  
APR 04 2001

**EDMC**

Dear Mr. Wilson:

THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY, OFFICE OF RIVER PROTECTION INTERIM  
STABILIZATION CONSENT DECREE "PROJECTED PUMPING COMPLETION DATE"  
DEFERRED COMPLETION OF PUMPING TANK 241-S-102

51886

Reference: Consent Decree No. CT-99-5076-EFS, filed with the U.S. District Court on  
September 30, 1999.

The referenced Consent Decree indicates projected pumping completion dates for each tank that are "estimates only and not enforceable." Milestone D-00-02-T01, addressing the completion of pumping of Tanks 241-S-102, 241-S-103, and 241-S-106 by March 30, 2001, and will be missed. Interim Stabilization has been completed for two of the three tanks; however, due to pump failures, pumping of Tank 241-S-102 will continue beyond the March 30, 2001, date.

Pumping of Tank 241-S-102 was initiated in March 1999, four months ahead of schedule. Substantial technical problems associated with the waste characteristics have resulted in extensive maintenance work. The pump has been replaced twice, the foot valve and jet unit replaced once, and the lower unit is currently plugged. When the lower unit plugged in June 2000, CH2M HILL Hanford Group, Inc. (CHG) was also experiencing problems with similar characteristics on the tanks in A and AX tank farms. CHG completed a technical analysis of the problems with the three tanks. The nature of the problems was discussed in the Second Quarter Interim Stabilization Report for Fiscal Year 2000 and in subsequent quarterly reports to the State of Washington Department of Ecology.

Although there has been an initial delay due to technical pump problems, the repair and restart of Tank 241-S-102 currently scheduled to be completed by April 30, 2001, will provide for completion of pumping within the overall project envelope and the enforceable Consent Decree Milestone D-01-00 "Complete Interim Stabilization" due September 30, 2004.

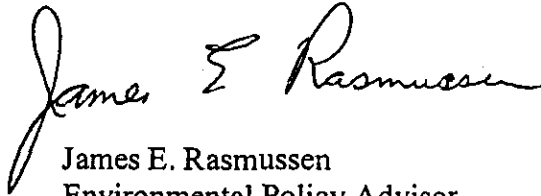
Mr. Michael A. Wilson  
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If you have any questions, please contact me, or your staff may contact Deb Williams,  
Operations Program Division, (509) 376-8488.

Sincerely,



James E. Rasmussen  
Environmental Policy Advisor  
Office of River Protection

OPD:DJW

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